



# CONGRESSMAN HENRY A. WAXMAN NEWS

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## WAXMAN MOVES TOWARDS NATIONAL EFFORT TO COMBAT ANTI-SEMITISM

Last week Congressman Henry A. Waxman (D-Los Angeles) announced to a crowded press conference at the Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies steps he has taken to launch a war on anti-Semitic violence on the national level.

Waxman described as "positive and encouraging" a private meeting he recently held with United States Attorney General William French Smith. According to the Congressman, Smith and others in the Justice Department are extremely concerned about the rise in incidents of vandalism and violence directed against Jews.

Smith promised to give careful consideration to a bill authored by Waxman and New York Congressman Stephen J. Solarz. The Solarz-Waxman bill would make it a federal crime to vandalize, set fire to, or damage any church, synagogue, cemetery or religious school. The bill provides for penalties of up to five years in prison and/or \$10,000 in fines.

Waxman said,

The most important benefits from our bill would be bringing the FBI and other federal agencies into investigations of anti-Semitic violence. Of the 377 incidents recorded by the Anti-Defamation League last year, only 20 arrests were made. If the criminals are rarely apprehended and brought to justice, the hope for deterrence is very slim."

Attorney General Smith asked Waxman to collect and collate information on anti-Semitic incidents from the Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith and from other national Jewish organizations. Waxman

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